

The aim is to make clear that the EUA-IEP started to offer Peer Reviews as service to member institutions in a time when systems for quality assessments were only coming up and were introduced in different countries.

At that time in 1993/1994 National Systems for Quality Assessment of Higher Education Institutions were coming, having different shapes in various countries, most often as demands from Governments or National Agencies for Universities and University Colleges, with their balancing of improvements and accountability almost invariably ending in the latter, much more than the former.

At the EU level, under the Dutch presidency the Council of Ministers of Education initiated what might be seen as the first movement to implement a European wide quality assessment system of higher education.

It was within this context that the CRE decided to implement its Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP). CRE had during the years gained trust among its member institutions and when 'supportive peer reviews' were suggested as a service, member institutions of CRE supported the idea.

At the time there did not exist a method for doing Peer Reviews as 'supportive' institutional reviews. Therefore the IEP evaluation methodology was quite innovative and so far no one else has 'supportive peer review' for the higher education institution as a whole.